

IN THE CLAIMS

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. **(New)** A method for irradiating tissue with RF energy from a treatment applicator connected through a cord to a power generator, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) placing the treatment applicator within a disposable cover through an opening of the cover to protect the treatment applicator from contamination and to protect a technician from RF radiation emitted from the treatment applicator;
- b) closing the opening of the cover to enclose the treatment applicator therewithin;
- c) transmitting RF energy from the treatment applicator through a first area of the cover adjacent the tissue to be treated; and
- d) inhibiting transmission of RF energy through a remaining second area of the cover.

22. **(New)** The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein the cover includes a top side generally coincident with the second area and a bottom side generally coincident with the first area and wherein said step of transmitting is adapted to be carried out through the bottom side.

23. **(New)** The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein the cover includes a top side and a bottom side and wherein said step of inhibiting is adapted to be carried out through the top side.

24. (New) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein said step of transmitting is adapted to be carried out through the bottom side.

25. (New) The method as set forth in claim 21 including the steps of:
a) removing the treatment applicator from within the cover; and
b) placing the cover into a disposal receptacle after said step of removing is carried out.

26. (New) The method as set forth in claim 21 wherein the cover includes a top side and a bottom side and including the step of detachably attaching an edge of the top side forming a part of the opening with an edge of the bottom side forming a part of the opening to enclose the treatment applicator within the cover.

27. (New) The method as set forth in claim 26 including the step of encircling the cord extending from the treatment applicator through the opening with material of the cover.